Task Force for Development of North-East Region

2193. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review the existing development model now being adopted in the North-East region of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set up a task force to work out an alternative strategy for the development of the North-East region; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R.BHARDWAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

Programme to eliminate Hunger

2194. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether one third of the World's Hungry population lives in India as reported in the recent report of the Hunger Project, an international non-Government organisation on the roster of the United Nations Economic and Social Council; and

(b) if so, the special programme chalked out or being formulated by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R.BHARDWAJ) : (a) In a publication "ENDING HUNGER-AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME"(1985), it was stated that if hunger were eliminated in India, as much as one third of World's hunger would be ended. This is the only one view where the incidence of hunger was estimated on the basis of an assumed relationship between undernourishment and infant mortality. However, there is no agreed definition of hunger. The publication of the hunger project reports that there is a wide range of estimate of chronically hungry people in the world ranging between 0.3 billion to 2.5 billion depending upon how an adequate diet is defined. The National Sample Survey Organisation in its 38th Round of Survey (1983) asked a direct question "Whether all members of a household got two square meals a day throughout a year or not?" Based on the response, the proportion of hungry people was estimated at 16 percent of the population in India in that year.

(b) Poverty is at the core of the problem of hunger. To alleviate poverty a number of self employment and wage employment programmes like Integrated Rural Development Programme, Jawahar Rojgar Yojna etc., especially directed at the poor are being implemented. As a result of these measures and general development efforts the percentage of people below the poverty line come down from around 48% in 1977-78 to around 30% to around 30% in 1987-88.

[*Translation*]

Regional Balance of Industries

2195. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made so far under the Industrial Policy of 1980 to remove regional imbalances, to deal with the problem of congestion in metropolis during the last three years; and

(b) the details of the industries set up in